بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Tranquility Lies in Jihad

The Muslim may not achieve happiness in this world except by entering the protection of Allah Almighty and His mercy, nor may he get it in the Akhirah without that. The Muslim spends his whole life striving to earn Allah's mercy, as this is his intention, his absolute goal, and the basic aim. It is well-known that hijrah and jihad after sound tawhid are among the widest gates of mercy, and the evidence is the Almighty's words: "Surely those who have believed, emigrated, and struggled in the Way of Allah—they can hope for Allah's mercy. And Allah is All-Forgiving, Most Merciful" (Al-Baqarah: 218). The interpreters said: "These three deeds - faith, hijrah, and jihad - these are the titles of happiness and the nucleus of worship. Whoever fulfills them despite their difficulties and troubles, would even more seriously and perfectly perform the other deeds. So those are the people who deserve to be expectant of Allah's mercy."

Allah Almighty has surrounded the mujahidin and muhajirin -for His sake- with His mercy, He covered them with His tranquility and chose them from among many of His worshipers. Therefore, a mujahid, from the very first step he takes from his doorstep intending to reach the land of jihad, the mercies of Allah surround him and the tranquility covers him even in the darkest of situations.

So, despite all the dangers and difficulties, trials and tribulations through which a mujahid passes throughout his arduous journey, he feels a miraculous solace and mercy that do not seem to leave him in any phase of his jihad, Everyone who has tasted it knows it well; it accompanies him till the end of his journey, till the eternal rest and happiness in the Paradise - by the permission of Allah Almighty.

The Qur'an has mentioned some of the situations and stations where tranquility accompanies the mujahid in his way, so as to clarify the landmarks for every traveller on this path. Among them is the point when the hearts become truthful with their Lord. The hearts excrete whatever impurities they contain, leaving nothing behind except granting and sacrificing for the religion of Allah, and the truth settles down in their depths. At that point, Allah Almighty observes this in the hearts of His worshipers and sends down the tranquility upon them, as it happened to the Sahabah of the Prophet ﷺ in al-Hudaybiya when the false news of Uthman bin 'Affan's killing - may Allah be pleased with him - approached them. The Prophet ﷺ took the death promise from his Sahabah, and here Allah Almighty bore witness to their truth and their preparation for fighting till death, and so He was pleased with them and said about them: "Certainly Allah was pleased with the believers when they swore allegiance to you under that tree, and He knew what was in their hearts. So He sent down As-Sakînah (tranquility) on them and He rewarded them with a near conquest" (Al-Fateh: 18). Then He revealed it again while the treaty was being finalised, in order to achieve His objective and complete the task that had to be done. The Almighty said: "... then Allah sent down His Sakînah (calmness and tranquility) upon His Messenger and the believers, and the Word of Piety has been justified upon them (they deserved Piety). And they were well entitled to it (to be the owners of Piety) and they became worthy of it" (Al-Fateh: 26). And among the reasons for descending of tranquility upon them, as the interpreters have explained: "That they had patience for Allah's judgment, adhering to the conditions that contained glorification of Allah's sanctities whatsoever they were, and that they did not care for what the sayers say nor for the blames of the blamers."

And another one of the situations when tranquility descends is the time all the ways are blocked in the face of the worshiper, so he doesn't have any savior from Allah except Himself. Then the tranquility descends upon him, so Allah's worshiper knows it clearly that his Lord is Alive, close to him, and the witness upon everything. That is what happened to our Prophet ﷺ on his night in the cave when he said to Abu Bakr - may Allah be pleased with him: "What do you think about those two whose third is Allah Almighty. Allah Almighty said: 'So Allah sent down His serenity upon the Prophet, supported him with forces you [believers] did not see" (At-Taubah: 40). At that point, Abu Bakr achieved tranquility which calmed every single fear inside his heart until the period of rida' trials, so he stood strong and brave. He was asked: 'Had the thing that struck you stricken mountains it would have shattered them, and had it stricken seas it would have vaporized them, but we do not see you weaken?' He said: Fear hasn't entered my heart since the night in the cave, because when the Prophet ﷺ saw my sorrow he said: Do not take it so seriously, O Abu Bakr! Allah has taken the responsibility of accomplishing this mission."

And among the situations of tranquility is also the time when war intensifies and the casualty toll increases, after the earth closes in upon the believers. Then the tranquility descends to remove the gloom, like on the day of al-Hunyin, as Allah Almighty explains it: "The earth, despite its vastness, seemed to close in on you, then you turned back in retreat. Then Allah sent down His tranquility upon His Messenger and the believers and sent down forces you could not see, and punished those who disbelieved. Such was the reward of the disbelievers" (At-Taubah: 26-25).

And many times, the serenity descends along with sleep as a mercy from the Most Merciful for His friends, so that their depression may go away, their souls calm down, and their attentiveness increases. It is what happens often with the mujahidin, where they are able to sleep during the most critical hours of shelling, as a sign of the mercy of Allah and His reassurance for them. The Almighty said: "Remember when He caused drowsiness to overcome you, giving you serenity" (Al-Anfal: 11). He also said: "Then after distress, He sent down serenity in the form of drowsiness overcoming some of you" (Aal-i-Imran: 154).

So these all are evidence and proofs that Allah would never let His faithful worshipers be wasted, and even if the sky were to come down on the earth, Allah will surely make a safe way out for His worshipers.

And among the strangest instances of serenity descending upon the believers in our era, is what happens when the mujahidin compete for death. You see them racing for the sake of riding the car bombs, and you see them pleading to Allah to grant them an istishhadi operation in the ranks of the enemy. And also what we observe upon the inghimasiyyin and istishhadiyyin from the happiness and joy just before they are about to carry out their operations and ride the conveyance of death! It indeed is a matter that may not be adopted by the minds of materialists, and the lovers of this world and its slaves, who describe the lovers of martyrdom with descriptions of madness and mockery... And it is not a surprise! The difference between the two parties is enormous! Read the words of Allah Almighty if you want: "Allah makes the believers steadfast with the firm Word [of faith] in this worldly life and the Hereafter. And Allah leaves the wrongdoers to stray. For Allah does what He wills" (Ibrahim: 27).

This was the tranquility that caused Umayr Bin Al-Hamam - may Allah be pleased with him - to see the worldly life very, very long if he had to stay here to eat his handful of dates, which doesn't take more than a number of minutes! And it was the same tranquility that makes the grandsons of Umayr today advance without ceasing, while death chases them in every valley. But how can they cease or delay while the Paradise is readied and adorned for those who yearn for it?!

There, in the everlasting Paradise where is no distress and no displeasure, and no tiredness and no fatigue! So it is what they promise each other and advise about, and for it, they prepare and work.

The serenity that the mujahid finds in his way eases each and every difficulty upon him and alleviates all the sufferings for him, so the desolate deserts become green fields in the eyes of his faith! and the darkened caves give him the delight that even the dwellers of palaces may not get.

In fact, the discomfort, insensitivity, distress, displeasure, anxiety, stress, and a lot more of the present-day diseases the Muslims sitting away from the jihad today complain about, their medicine and therapy are in the fields of jihad. So come o Muslim towards your success and happiness in both the worlds and come join the battlegrounds - upon the prophetic method - as indeed, the mercy of Allah is the shelter for the mujahidin and His tranquility is winds for them, driving them and moving with them wherever they travel and remaining with them wherever they stay. Truly, Allah is the caretaker of the pious. All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all creation.